

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04993 110322Z

63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1643

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, AS

SUBJ: ACTION ON TARIFF BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN
FILM INDUSTRY

REF: A. STATE 154211; B. CANBERRA 4406; C. SYDNEY 1918;
D. CANBERRA 4959

1. AUSTRALIAN MORNING NEWSPAPERS REPORT SLIGHTLY
CONFLICTING VERSIONS OF CABINET SEPTEMBER 10 ACTION ON
TARIFF BOARD FILM INDUSTRY REPORT. ALL VERSIONS ASSERT
THAT CABINET APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL FILM
AUTHORITY AND THAT MINISTER FOR MEDIA, SENATOR MCCLELLAND,
INSTRUCTED TO MAKE DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET
RESPECTING IMPLEMENTATION. SOME ACCOUNTS SUGGEST NEW
AUTHORITY WOULD CONTROL DISTRIBUTION ONLY OF AUSTRALIAN
MADE FILMS WHILE OTHERS STATE NEW AUTHORITY WOULD
DISTRIBUTE BOTH AUSTRALIAN AND OVERSEAS MADE FILMS.

2. EMBASSY INFORMED BY DEPARTMENT OF THE MDEIA
THAT PRESS REPORTS SOMEWHAT PREMATURE, AND ANTICIPATE
DECISION NOT YET FINALLY TAKEN BY CABINET. TARIFF
BOARD REPORT WILL BE TABLED PROBABLY SEPTEMBER 11
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IN PARLIAMENT AND MEDIA MINISTER WILL BE MAKING

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET PROMPTLY, ALTHOUGH NO
DATE SPECIFIED. PENDING HIS RECOMMENDATIONS, PRESS
COMMENTS RE FINAL ACTION ON INDIVIDUAL TARIFF BOARD
RECOMMENDATIONS PURELY SPECULATIVE.

3. TENTATIVE INDICATIONS, NOT CONCLUSIVE, SUGGEST
THAT PROPOSED AUTHORITY WOULD NOT HAVE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF FILMS MADE OVERSEAS.
THIS SURMISE BASED ON REPORTED OPPOSITION BY MCCLELLAND
TO PURCHASING POOL IDEA, AS WELL AS PRESS STATEMENTS
THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL MURPHY QUESTIONED LEGALITY OF
SUCH A PROPOSAL DURING CABINET DISCUSSION. REPORTS
TO DATE MAKE NO REFERENCE TO PROBABLY DISPOSITION OF
TARIFF BOARD PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD LIMIT SIZE OF
THEATRE CHAINS AND REQUIRE DIVESTITURE OF SOME THEATRES
BY PRESENT CHAINS.
GREEN

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